

## Flu Advisory Board (FAB) Conference Call Meeting Minutes – September 29, 2005

Present: Jan Arsenault, Wayne County Department of Public Health; Sue Bass, IHA; Carolyn Bird, MALPH Physicians' Forum; Lori Bologna, sanofi pasteur; Patsy Bourgeois, Monroe County Health Department; Talat Danish, Wayne County Department of Public Health; Terrisca DesJardins, SE MI Partners Project; Joanne Eakins, Nurse Administrators' Forum; Judy Ferguson, Sanilac County Health Department/MALPH; Nancy Griffiths, IHA; Liz Harton, MDCH; Gary M. Kirk, MDCH; Jan Koopman, MDCH; Kurt Krause, MDCH; Pat Krehn, Nurse Administrators' Forum; Carol Legwand, Alliance for Immunization in Michigan (AIM); Kevin Lokar, Macomb County Health Department; Dianne McCagg, MPRO; Dianne Miller, Michigan Pharmacists Association; Karen Ngowe, MDCH/OPHP; Linda O'Leary, St. John Health; Rachel Potter, MDCH; Kay Renny, VNA of Southeast Michigan; Nicolle Rya, Kroger Pharmacy; Sue Schryber, Ottawa County Health Department; Ann Shelton, MedImmune; Dean Sienko, MDCH/MALPH; Bob Swanson, MDCH; M. Thirumoorthi, St. John Health, Cora Urquhart, MDCH/BHS/NHM; Pat Vranesich, MDCH; Kathy Webster, Washtenaw County Health Department; Sally Webster, Priority Health; Eden Wells, MDCH; Darcy Wildt, MDCH; JoEllen Wolicki, MDCH; Stacey Wright, Maxim Health Systems.

### **I. Welcome and Roll Call**

Gary Kirk called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Roll call was taken.

### **II. Old Business/Standing Reports**

#### **a. Communication/Deployment Subcommittee – Pat Vranesich**

The group met on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and discussed the following issues:

- IVEN
  - Talked about different ways to test pilot the system
  - Discussed what needed to be done to rollout IVEN
- Web Dennis (BCBS web software that can reach 20,000 private providers)
  - Need to develop message criteria
  - Would be used for critical flu information only, not for flu education
- Long Term Care Surveys
  - Developed and used in some counties already
  - Following tier 1 – CDC guidelines
- Development of Materials to Aid in Flu Communication
  - Health care worker poster distributed
  - Flu messages on MSMS website, MI-Train, HAN, MCIR
  - Poster highlighting newborns to be distributed to birthing hospital within the next two weeks
  - Flu letter sent out from Dr. Sienko to AIM, etc. (will also be handed out at the fall Regional Immunization conferences)

#### **b. Leadership Subcommittee – Bob Swanson**

The group has met twice since the August MACI meeting. At the first meeting they drafted recommendations to the department for tiered groups based on the limited number of influenza vaccine doses known to be available at the time (50-60 million doses). During the second meeting, more information was available regarding the anticipated number of influenza vaccine doses available for the 05/06 flu season and the committee submitted the following recommendations:

- Follow the guidelines outlined in the MMWR
- Tier 1 prioritized – high risk groups to be vaccinated first
- After October 24, vaccination open to general public
- Work with TJ to develop press release
- LAIV not limited by prioritization

Bob reported on general flu vaccine availability, by manufacturer:

- GSK – all vaccine is booked
- Sanofi pasteur – all adult vaccine booked
- Chiron – all vaccine is booked (Chiron still does not have final FDA approval. Vaccine lots are being inspected. Once approved, the vaccine will be released for distribution.)
- MedImmune – still has doses available

#### c. Education Subcommittee – Liz Harton

Liz gave the following updates:

- FluBytes are being sent out weekly
- The committee is working to ensure that the flu hotline message is consistent with other messages out there
- Committee members have been submitting information to be disseminated to the public. All FAB members are encouraged to forward relative flu messages to Liz for inclusion with the weekly FluBytes

#### d. Progress on Specific Activities:

##### IVEN

- Pilot was tested. Feedback indicated that the number of steps to follow might be overwhelming. Screen shots were added and steps were separated into four segments:
  - How to apply
  - How to post supply
  - How to search for supply
  - How to update or remove posting
- System needs clarification on how someone is notified that they are approved. Some ideas were:
  - Via pop-up message
  - Automated e-mail reply
  - Text on the form itself with appropriate wording

In discussing timeline vs functionality issues, the group decided to use the third option in order to get IVEN ready to be rolled out on October 11, 2005. Additional modifications can be made in the future. It was suggested that IVEN could also be used by MDCH to monitor the needs of providers, who could be contacted and assisted in their search for flu vaccine.

#### FAB Press Release

The initial FAB press release dated August 17, 2005, as well as future FAB press releases, can be found by going to [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch), clicking on the Influenza in Michigan quick link on the right, and accessing MDCH News Releases under Current Issues.

### **III. New/Additional Business**

#### **a. Options for Vaccinating (CMS) Home Health clients**

In the past, some health care providers in nursing home or home health settings were unable to bill for the administration and cost of the flu vaccine, primarily because they did not have a medical ID # to bill under. Liz informed the group that today's issue of FluBytes would contain web links that address billing issues for Medicaid/Medicare.

#### **b. Legislation Regarding Thimerosal-containing Vaccines**

A senate bill concerning thimerosal in vaccines was introduced to the Committee on Health Policy. The legislator behind the bill gave MDCH the opportunity to comment and make suggestions for changes to the language. MDCH's suggestions were not used. The passage of the bill as it stands could have a great impact on flu and pandemic flu planning. It does not appear that the Committee on Health Policies will take up the bill at this time. MDCH will continue to work with our liaisons to try and influence the wording of this proposed legislation.

#### **c. Communications Check**

FAB members confirmed that information received from the FAB meetings and gained through FluBytes is being passed on to member organizations. The group identified several other organizations that should be getting the flu updates, including MI Chapter of ACP, MIDS and area hospitals. Contacts for these organizations were provided and they will be added to the information distribution lists.

#### **d. Other Business**

Bob updated the group that MDCH has received approximately one third of the VFC flu vaccine that was ordered and the vaccine is being distributed out to local health departments. A survey of members on the call revealed that groups have received anywhere from 0% to 50% of their original flu vaccine order to date.

Lori Bologna of sanofi pasteur informed the group that all pediatric flu vaccine doses had been shipped and approximately 51% of the preservative-containing flu vaccine had been shipped. Sanofi pasteur expects to have all orders shipped out by mid-November.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

The next meeting of FAB will be held at MPHI's Interactive Learning Center in Okemos on November 30, 2005, from 12:30 – 2 pm, following the regularly scheduled MACI meeting.